



MICHIGAN COUNCIL *of* PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS



January 3, 2007

Michigan Supreme Court
Mr. Corbin R. Davis
Clerk of the Supreme Court
PO Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Proposed New Rule 19
ADM File No. 2005-41

Dear Mr. Davis:

I am writing you today on behalf of the Michigan Council of Private Investigators. Our association represents the interests of the approximately 1200 licensed professional investigators in Michigan. We respectfully ask the Court to reject proposed New Rule 19.

Obtaining information on professions and those that practice in given professions is extremely important in many types of civil and criminal investigations. The Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) regulate many, if not most, professions in Michigan. All records associated with professions regulated by DLEG, including unlicensed activities, are available under the Freedom of Information Act. Why should the members of the State Bar be exempt from the same public scrutiny? Under proposed Rule 19 a court order in a civil matter could not be issued for such information. Again we ask why the difference for State Bar members over other regulated professions in Michigan?

To use the same regulatory example, DLEG files on disciplinary action related to its regulated professions are available under the Freedom of Information Act. Under the proposed rules members of the State Bar would not have the same public scrutiny. As officers of the court and the direct connection for citizens to the judicial system, isn't it important that the public be able to scrutinize those records as much as any other professions?

The inability to obtain financial records by the use of court order in a civil matter is very concerning to us and we believe the citizens of Michigan. Proposed Rule 19 would not allow such action to be taken in any of the programs addressed in these proposed rules.

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Following the money trail and having an open book policy is the best way for the public to know that corruption is not occurring.

It is important that the citizens of Michigan know exactly what those that work and operate in the judiciary branch of government are doing. Access to all records of governmental operations is paramount to a free society. These proposed rules would only hurt the ability of those within this free society to protect itself from governmental corruption. Secrecy breeds corruption.

We urge the Court to reject Rule 19 and work with the citizens of Michigan to provide access to this necessary and important information.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Psarouthakis
President
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